Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) generally prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT for all Classes. In respect of those subjects for which the syllabus has been prescribed by CBSE and where CBSE has prepared its own textbooks, the prices of such books are reasonable.

Several State Governments have adopted or adapted NCERT textbooks.

Under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), free textbooks are provided to children with a ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- per child at upper primary level.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Airlines

3346. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the background details and the process which culminated into merger of all erstwhile Government-owned airlines into one entity *i.e.*, Air India, indicating profile of the Directors who constituted the respective Boards at each phase of their merger;

(b) the details of expenses incurred in each stage alongwith the merger process *e.g.*, painting of new logos, features of stationeries, dresses of on-board crew and of employees on ground etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had appointed consultants for designing uniform of on-board crew members; and

(d) if so, the profile of consultants, job entrusted to each and fees paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ms. Ritu Beri a renowned fashion designer, was entrusted with the job of designing a new uniform for female cabinet crew and female ground staff. No fee for consultancy was paid. However, an expenditure of Rs. 86,54,600/- was incurred initially for procuring uniforms designed by Ms. Beri for the cabin crew and female ground staff and ties for crew.

Construction of international airport at Jaipur

†3347. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work for the construction of new building and runway of international standard at international airport, Jaipur and by when it would be opened for the passengers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the total amount spent on it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new terminal building has already been commissioned at Jaipur airport on 1st July, 2009. The work related to extension of runway from 9170 ft. to 10500 ft. has been initiated.

(b) The amount spent on it so far is Rs. 107.76 crores.

Runway at Khandwa

†3348. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the runway situated at Khandwa airport is fit for flights at present;

(b) the amount sanctioned and spent for making the runway fit for flights; and

(c) by what time the remaining amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): No, Sir.

(b) As this airport is not in operation for last two decades, no amount has been sanctioned for this airport. However, the nearest Indore airport is at a distance of 130 kms.

(c) Does not arise.

Pre-paid taxi service at IGI Airport

3349. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) the passengers after securing the pre-paid taxi tokens are on the mercy of taxi drivers to reach their destinations because they are not ready to carry short distance passengers;

(b) whether during night even after paying the night charges, the passengers are forced to pay additional charges;

(c) if so, what action Government would take against the erring officials and taxi drivers; and

(d) whether pre-paid taxi service would be computerized and registration numbers of the taxis would be printed on the bill/token to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A few complaints of harassment of passengers including overcharging and refusal to commute short distance during hiring of pre-paid taxis have been received by the Delhi Police.

(c) Strict enforcement action is taken by Delhi Police against the erring taxi driver, if found indulging in refusal/misbehaving with passengers at IGI Airport.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.